

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1256

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB GW, GE

SUBJECT: GDR HARASSMENT ON AUTOBAHN IN WAKE OF

FEA ESTABLISHMENT

1. EAST GERMANS APPEAR TO HAVE INITIATED SOME HARASSMENT OF TRANSIT TRAFFIC IN WAKE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY IN WEST BERLIN. MISSION HAS LEARNED SO FAR OF FIVE CASES, STARTING MORNING JULY 26, IN WHICH PRIVATE AUTOS WERE STOPPED AT CROSSING POINTS (HIRSCHBERG, DREWITZ, MARIENBORN AND STAAKEN) AND PASSENGER EITHER ASKED IF THEY WORKED FOR THE FEA OR WERE SIMPLY TOLD THAT REASON FOR DELAY WAS BECAUSE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF FEA. DELAYS VARIED FROM TEN MINUTES TO HOUR, AFTER WHICH ALL TRAVELERS WERE PERMITTED TO PROCEED.

2. IT IS DIFFICULT AT THIS TIME TO KNOW IF GDR HARRASMENT WILL REMAIN LIMITED TO DELAYING SELECTED TRAVELERS. NONE OF PEOPLE STOPPED, SO FAR, WORK FOR THE FEA AND
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THEREFORE WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT EAST GERMANS WILL DO SHOULD

THEY STOP SOMEONE WHO IS FEA EMPLOYEE. IN FACT IT MAY BE THAT EAST GERMANS ARE CAREFULLY SELECTING PEOPLE WHOM THEY KNOW FULL WELL ARE NOT FEA EMPLOYEES IN ORDER TO AVOID FACING CHOICE OF ACTUALLY EXCLUDING TRAVELERS. IT IS ALSO

POSSIBLE THAT GDR IS ATTEMPTING TO CATCH FEA EMPLOYEE LYING ABOUT HIS EMPLOYMENT AND THEN WILL REFUSE HIM TRANSIT ON GROUNDS OF HAVING GIVEN FALSE INFORMATION. (IN ONE CASE, FOR EXAMPLE, EAST GERMAN BORDER GUARD TOLD TRAVELER AFTER LATTER SAID HE WAS A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE BUT HAD NO CONNECTION WITH FEA THAT HE SHOULD BE CLEAR AS TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF GIVING FALSE INFORMATION.)

3. IT IS TOO SOON TO KNOW WHETHER, IN LIGHT OF GDR DELEGATION CHIEF SUESS' COMMENT TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMANN JULY 24, EAST GERMANS WILL REGARD PRESENT PATTERN OF LOW-LEVEL HARASSMENT OF FEW SELECTED TRAVELERS AS SUFFICIENT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY MEANT EARLIER THREATS. INCIDENTS HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED MEDIA COVERAGE AND ALLIED MISSIONS ARE LIKELY TO RECEIVE PRESS INQUIRIES. IF ASKED, WE PROPOSE TO REPLY THAT:

ANY IMPEDING OR HARASSMENT OF TRAVELERS ON TRANSIT ROUTES, EXCEPT IN CASES OF ACTUAL MISUSE OF TRANSIT ROUTES AS SPELLED OUT IN TRANSIT AGREEMENT, IS CONTRARY TO QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT AND UNACCEPTABLE. KLEIN

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